Public Program for Welcoming the President of the United States at Metlakatla, Alaska, Sunday morning, July 8, 1923.

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1 Parade of Metlakatla Cornet Band and People escorting the President and Party from the public landing to the open-air assembly in front of the United States Public School building.

2 Mayor Herbert J. Murchison, presiding. National Anthem - "The Star-Spangled Banner". 2 verses.

3 Invocation - Rev. Edward Marsden

4 The Address of Welcome. The Mayor

5 "Hallelujah Chorus" from The Messiah. The Presbyterian Choir.

6 Brief Remarks - "What hath God wrought" among the Tsimpshean race. By Mr. John Davis, 70 yrs. old & a member of Town Council. Remarks interpreted in English by Rev. Edw. Marsden.

7 Music - "President Harding March" - Metlakatla Cornet Band.

8 Short Address - "The Needs of the Alaska Indians" Rev. Edw. Marsden, Secretary of the Town Council.

9 Presentation of "Indian Fishery Memorial" to the President by a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

10 Introduction of the President of the United States by the Governor of Alaska, and An Address by the President.

11 Presentation of Souvenirs - Yellow cedar paddles, carved and of Indian workmanship, one each to the President and Secretary of the Interior, symbolic of guiding the affairs of state as they concern the Territory of Alaska, and a pair of carved gold bracelets of Indian workmanship to Mrs. Harding. Presentation by Mr. Roderick F. Davis, son of John Davis, and a member of Town Council

12 Introduction by the President himself of the Secretaries of the Interior, of Commerce and of Agriculture and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

13 The National Hymn - "My Country, 'Tis of Thee".

14 Brief Prayer and Benediction - Mr. Frederick Benson, Lay worker in the Duncan Church.

15 An impromptu reception by the President, Mrs. Harding and members of the President's party in which they meet and receive the greetings and hearty good will of about a thousand people, both Indian and white.

16 (On the way down and back to the public landing, the President dedicated the new 140-foot one piece flagpole erected in his honor and hoisted a large American flag thereon. The flag was about 8x20 feet and the pole was erected in front of the Council Chamber. This part of the ceremony took place one hour after the President's reception. Two large arches were built and the whole town was in gala dress.)

The Address of Welcome by Mayor Herbert J.Murchison,
of the Town of Metlakatla,Alaska.

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Mr. President:

We welcome you. We welcome the First Lady of the Land. The Ladies and Gentlemen of your cabinet who are here present are heartily welcomed in our midst. We extend to all the members of your traveling party and the officers of your ship a glad welcoming hand.

We also appreciate the presence here with us of His Excellency,the Governor of Alaska,and the Honorable gentleman that represents this great northland in the Congress of the United States.

Sir,we welcome you.The Thlingits,the Hydahs and the Tsimpsheans of Alaska here present cordially welcome you. These are the representatives and the remnants of the once big nations of the North Pacific coast.Here they are before you.They lift up their hearts to God in thanksgiving,and they pray the Divine blessing upon you and upon your great office.

The Town of Metlakatla especially welcomes you today.It humbly offers to you everything that you may ask for.The town is yours.Mr.President,the keys and the freedom of the Town are in your hands.

Although some of our houses and public buildings are in bad shape,as you yourself will witness,yet we think ourselves as now entering upon a new order of things,and this bad appearance will change for the better.

Sir,we are glad to meet with you on this occasion.We humbly pledge our loyalty and service to the flag of your glorious nation.The Holy Book says:"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.For there is no power but of God:the powers that be are ordained of God."

Mr.President,we again welcome you,and we once more renew our allegiance to the country and government that you represent.

Remarks by President Harding at Metlakatla, Alaska, Sunday morning, 9:15 a.m. July 8, 1923.

The President was introduced by Governor Scott C. Bone of Alaska.

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Governor Bone, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is to me a very pleasing and happy experience. I think it is altogether appropriate that on this Sabbath morning we should meet with those who have constituted one of the ideal missions in the progress of Christian civilization, and that we should have your welcome and get our first view of this wonderful territory.

I have had just one disappointment, and I must tell you of it: I am sorry to hear you say "your country": I want you to say "our country". (Applause) If under the opportunities afforded by the United States Government, if under the considerate treatment accorded you, you have been able to work out so much of progress for yourselves on this Island, then I think surely the United States ought to make available to the older ones of you citizenship under the flag, just as it comes to your children who are born under the flag. I do not know whether I am entirely reliable as a judge of human nature, but I am happy to say that I should like to see all of you citizens of the United States. (Applause)

I am not unmindful of the grievance so feelingly expressed relating to the fisheries. I regret I cannot make the response which the address would seem to invite. We cannot return to primitive days in Alaska; but there ought to be some righteous solution of our relationships under which the native shall have everything that he needs to enable him to live and prosper. Such conditions, however, will not be brought about by a reversion to the primitive, because that would be against the law of God and the best interests of human society.

It is a very great pleasure to greet you: it is a joy to

hear your band and to hear you sing,and it is an inspiration to look into your faces. I am glad that we have such an island under the American flag;I am glad that you are a part of this republic of ours and doing your share to develop it and make it better; but above all else I am glad to see this wholesome manifestation of what the good* Doctor referred to as the "Christian teaching". It shows the mollifying,uplifting and refining influence of religion,and to you as pioneers in this section I pay my tribute for bringing about such a softening and elevating influence in this great Northwest.I wish you all well.

I wish to say a word more on a subject to which reference has not as yet been made.There have come impressions of inconsiderate treatment and some injustice in government dealings.I do not pass upon them hastily,but if there is aught of neglect or injustice in the relationship of the Government with the people of this Island,it would be worth coming to Alaska to be able to correct it.We want every condition of that kind speedily corrected.So,if there is anything that we should know,while we will not have time now to give it further public expression,I should like to be advised before I leave Alaska,so that we may understand your situation.In return I should like you to understand that your Federal Government wants to do everything that is just and righteous toward the promotion of your welfare and at the same time the promotion of the welfare of our common country.It is good to see you all.I wish you the fullest measure of happiness. I love the Indian smile,and I hope it will wear with you forever. (Great applause)

*Rev. Edward Marsden, one of the speakers that preceded the President and spoke on the "Needs of the Alaska Indians".

Extracts from the President's remarks at Ketchikan, 2:30 p.m.,Sunday afternoon,July 8,1923:

"But I have been particularly impressed today with a little meeting we had just a little ways South,where we were welcomed by the Indians with a deeply impressive religious tone in all that was said,and one of the spokesmen uttered his words in great humility. He referred to the white man as the superior agent of the superior civilization,but in all he said was a tone of religious reverence,which I would be glad to see the white civilization of the United States of America embrace,because I believe (applause) because I like to know and I like to hear of your patriotic devotion."

(The above is from the Ketchikan Daily Chronicle of July 9,1923,and Metlakatla is fifteen miles south from Ketchikan.)

From the President's speech in Seattle,Wash.,Friday, July 27,1923:

"It would be an unforgivable omission if I should not refer to the advancement of the Indian population of the territory.I doubt if anywhere an aboriginal people has been so fast assimilated to civilization,industry,intelligence and education,as have the Alaska Indians.Doubtless this is in part because they have had the full advantage of the more enlightened policy adopted by the government toward the Indians in recent times;but it is also due to the fact that these Alaska Indians are a fine,peace-loving,hard-working people. They are going to be a great asset to the country and a most useful element in its citizenship.Largely because of their faithfulness and industry,the reindeer herds which from a small beginning a few years ago now number easily 300,000

animals,have become one of the valuable resources of the country. Alaska today has half as many reindeer as all Lapland,and in a few years its herds will far outnumber those of that motherland of this ideal domestic beast of the northland.*

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A PROCLAMATION.

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Whereas God in His Providence has removed by death,Warren G. Harding,President of the United States of America,on the evening of Thursday,the 2nd day of August,1923; and

Whereas it is only a few days since the President visited Metlakatla,as his first stopping place on his Alaska tour,and his kindness and greatness are still very fresh in our memory,

Therefore, I, Herbert J.Murchison,Mayor of Metlakatla, do hereby request the people of Metlakatla to show their respect for the dead President by displaying at half-mast the American flag on all the flag poles according to the length of time the whole nation mourns for him; that on the day of funeral the church bells be tolled between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock noon; that the people refrain from holding any public gatherings of merriment and frivolity,and I further request that a special service be held in his memory in the Presbyterian Church at 8 o'clock p.m.on next Sunday evening the 5th.

Done at Metlakatla,in the Territory of Alaska,under our seal, this third day of August,in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twentythree.

Herbert J. Murchison,
Mayor.

Attest:
Edward Marsden,
Secretary.

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Telegram.

Metlakatla, Alaska.

August 3,1923.

Mrs.Warren G. Harding,

White House, Washington,D. C.

The Council and people of Metlakatla receive with profound sorrow the news of the death of the President. May God comfort you and assuage the anguish of your heart.

Edward Marsden

Council Secretary

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President Harding Memorial Service,Presbyterian Church,Metlakatla,Alaska,Sunday Evening,Aug.5,1923.

The Pastor, Rev.Edward Marsden,presiding.

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1 Opening Hymn -"Lead,Kindly Light."

2 Responsive Reading - "God's Just Rule" Psalm 96.

3 Prayer - The Pastor.

4 Anthem - "And I heard a voice from heaven" The Choir.

5 President Harding's Life - Mr.E.Purvance (Ex-School Prin.)

6 Solo - "Come ye disconsolate" Mr.Ben.Ridley(Choir member)

7 President Harding's visit to Metlakatla - Mayor Herbert J.Murchison

8 Hymn - "Nearer,My God,to Thee"

9 The appreciation of the Metlakatla People of President Harding and Mrs.Harding - Ruling Elder John Davis

10 Quartette - "O God our help in Ages past" (Four members of choir)

11 President Harding as a Christian Statesman - Rev.Edward Marsden

12 National Hymn - "My Country, 'Tis of Thee".

13 Benediction.

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Metlakatla, Alaska.

November 21, 1923.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr.Marquis:

I have received your letter of October 19, 1923,including the one addressed to you from Mr.Roundy of the Home Missions Council,relative to the existence of rivalry in the mission and church work here at Metlakatla,Alaska,as reported in the Christian Century Magazine of September 27,1923,and so forth. This matter has been brought to the attention of our leading Christians in Metlakatla and their answer is in the form of facts herewith enumerated and presented to you:

1. There is no rivalry in the church work in Metlakatla any more than in any Protestant and Catholic community anywhere else. The Duncan Church,unorganized and without affiliation with any other denomination,with its very few adherents,rejects the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism as well as some of the doctrines of the Word of God,especially in connection with organized authorities and governmmants. The Presbyterian Church,with its over two hundred members in a constituency of six hundred persons,believes and practices its belief as any Protestant Church anywhere else under the American flag. There are also small Episcopalian and Salvation Army societies in Metlakatla, a town which has an Indian population of about a thousand souls.

2. It was the public agreement between Father Duncan in 1912 and his Indian people that in the event of his disability or death,the people would chose to identify themselves with any established Protestant denomination in America. Father Duncan died in 1918,and in 1920,in a convention of three days in June

by three hundred Christian men and women of Metlakatla,the public decision was arrived at for the founding of a regular Presbyterian Church in Metlakatla.These are matters of public record.

3. The founding of the Presbyterian Church in Metlakatla on October 18,1920,was done according th what is just and fair.After the people decided,one hundred and eightythree Christians signed the petition to the Presbytery of Alaska praying for an organization.The Presbytery then acted and not until then.It appointed a committee of three to come here to look into the matter and make such recommendations to the Presbytery as the situation would demand.The committee came here during the first part of July,1920,and held a public hearing.Friends and foes both appeared before the committee.The committee made its report and a call went forth for a meeting of Presbytery to take place at Metlakatla on or about the 16th of October,1920.The Presbytery, consisting of nine Presbyterian ministers present including the Superintendent of Missions for all Alaska,convened here formally on the evening of the 16th of October,and on the 18th effected the organization spoken of above. Fifty persons,men and women, formed the first organization,and since then the same has grown to two hundred members.

4. The Presbyterian Church in Metlakatla fulfils the long-felt need of the Tsimpshean race of Indians in Alaska,a need that has existed for thirtythree years prior to 1920. This church today becomes an organized force for righteousness among a scattered and transient fishing population,both white and native,estimated to be not less than three thousand five hundred souls within the radius of forty miles of Metlakatla.

5. When President Harding came here on Sunday,July 8,1923, the whole people welcomed him very heartily. After the ~~open~~ open-air exercises of welcome were over we accompanied him to Father Duncan's grave by the church and into Father Duncan's church building,a building all our Indian people erected under

Father Duncan's leadership in 1896. The President and his party were in the building only a few minutes when he started to leave again.From the Duncan Church the President and his party walked to the new Presbyterian Church building which was on the same street but a thousand feet away.After viewing and commenting on the neatness of the structure which was built altogether by Indian hands without any white leadership,he and many of his party inscribed their ~~their~~ names on the visitor's register of the church.From this latter place the President walked back to the public landing and later on embarked on the ship that brought him. The President saw only a small part of Metlakatla,although he saw and shook hands with nearly a thousand Indians while in Metlakatla.We were wholly unaware of the remark attributed to him concerning "those divisions and rivalries" in church matters in Metlakatla.Our first knowledge of the same is contained in your communication of the 19th ultimo.

6. As an act of courtesy on the part of the good and lamented President,an act which we greatly appreciated,I was one of the few Indian men invited by him as his guests on board the U.S.S. "Henderson" from Metlakatla to Ketchikan,a distance of fifteen nautical miles,Sunday noon,July 8,1923. We took luncheon on board the ship on the way.After the public exercises were over in Ketchikan on the afternoon of the 8th,and before the ship sailed north I was asked by a special messenger to come aboard again and meet the President and "some others" in a conference.

To make the long story very brief,this conference was asked for by one of the trustees of the Duncan will and some of the few followers of Father Duncan.The conference of Metlakatla affairs with the President and Secretary of the Interior was arranged to be held in Ketchikan and not in Metlakatla although the President was in Metlakatla a longer time than in Ketchikan.Moreover,the conference was arranged for through the Secretary of Commerce who

was a nephew of one of Father Duncan's associates in the Metlakatla work many years ago.There were present besides myself three other members of the Metlakatla town council and the principal of the Metlakatla public school,on the one hand,and,including the Duncan trustee,ten persons representing the Duncan work,faith and estate,on the other. The President,the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce,were seated in a row on one side of the room and no correspondents were present.

The conference lasted fully an hour.Very unexpected and unjust charges were brought against the town council,the Government school work,the Presbyterian Church,and especially the Presbyterian minister in Metlakatla by the Duncan trustee and four of his Indian supporters. On the President's request we answered these charges fully,and to his evident satisfaction proved that they were without foundation in fact and in law.

The President: "Do you mean to say that you and your fellow followers of Father Duncan want the Government to order the Presbyterian Church out of Metlakatla?"

The Indian speaker standing: "Yes sir,that is what we mean."

The President,shaking his head: "O no, no, no,no! The Government of the United States cannot do that,and will never do anything of the kind where no crimes are committed and ~~the~~ laws transgressed.Rather,it will respect and extend protection to the Presbyterian Church and other religious bodies at Metlakatla."

This was seven hours after the President left Metlakatla and after he listened patiently to all the words spoken in the conference.The Duncan trustee and one of the Indians again made an effort to offset the impression now evidently made on the mind of the President. At this very point and exactly at ten minutes to six o'clock,Sunday afternoon,July 8,1923,Mr.Work,the Secretary of the Interior rose from his seat and said: "Mr.President and gentlemen,this conference is now closed!" As soon as the

words were spoken,the President and every one of us rose from his seat.The President at once made a gesture with his left hand and waving it in the direction of the group of Duncan trustee and and followers said: "You Duncan followers,go and get together and settle your troubles among your own selves!" I stepped forward and took the hand of the President and bade him God-speed. We noticed that he stepped out of the reception saloon briskly ahead of the Secretary of the Interior and on toward the ~~railing on the~~ starboard ~~side~~ rail of the ship to greet the large crowd that gathered on the dock,and all this without shaking hands with the Duncan followers. Three minutes later the big ship pulled away from the dock on her way north.

7. The Duncan Church is accorded kind consideration,no more and no less than is accorded other religious bodies,by the town authorities of Metlakatla. It has no ministry,and cannot have one since it demands that a preacher can preach in its pulpit only when he has disowned his church vows,creed and denomination.Father Duncan is its founder,and we leave it to the Providence of God to guide its unfortunate and complicated affairs.

I am inclosing herewith some copies of papers bearing on the visit of President Harding to Metlakatla on July 8,1923,and also something in regard to his death.The work here is in a flourishing condition,although the times are still quite hard.The whole Metlakatla work,even though some of it is not in direct connection with our church,seems to be depemdent on my strength and constant advice. I am,

Yours in the Master's service,

Edward Marsden